Pam
Lepers
1340

Photo by Alan Shilin

SIONARY

Ministry of the BAPTIST CHURCHES to the victims of leprosy

"The Key to Leprosy is the Child"

states Dr. Robert G. Cochrane, world renowned leprologist and medical advisor to American Leprosy Missions, Inc. Most cases of leprosy are contracted in childhood, though the disease may not become apparent till later.

"If all little *children* could be separated from their infected parents, the disease could be brought under control by that means alone in due time," adds Doctor Cochrane. The separation of babies at birth from the source of contagion is an almost 100% guarantee against contagion.

Children are not only more susceptible than are adults but also are more responsive to treatment. If treated early, they may be saved entirely from the terrible deformities that plague leprosy sufferers.

These facts have brought about a change of emphasis in leprosy work. American Leprosy Missions, Inc. is helping with the care of over 2,000 uninfected *children*. Also great stress is given to early detection of the disease.

"Suffer the little *children* to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14.

DEC 6 1954

American Baptist

FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

Burma

Number of Leprosy Colonies	11
Population	18,674,000
Leprosy Cases (estimated)	111,000

(The colony at Moulmein is owned by the Mission to Lepers [London] with American Leprosy Missions providing 60% of the budget.)

One very early morning in 1930 the old caretaker of the **Moulmein** Leprosy Home watched a young woman with a satchel plodding up the muddy road from town. Her face astonished him, for it was white. She faltered at the gate and stumbled when he opened it for her. Then he found that he had heard of her often though never seen her; but he had no idea, nor did she, that he was letting into the Home the woman who was going to be its servant and its saint for the rest of her life.

Marjorie Wilkins (heroine of Ada B. Stearn's "These My Brethren") was an English girl domiciled in Burma, who received the Hansen's bacilli into her body during a neglected childhood, became an active case in high school, appeared to have been cured, and while she herself was teaching in Moulmein relapsed. For days she went through a torment of ethical and spiritual struggle. And it finally brought her to that gate on that morning in a paralyzing blend of resignation and despair.

To her own astonishment she became teacher, choir director, nurse, sustainer of morale and everybody's friend within that elementary and still medically ineffectual community. In World War II she led a group of patients out through immense danger to relative safety in Mandalay, her own newly married Burmese husband among them. Two years later she returned to reinfuse with hope the ill-fed and all but naked remnant who had chosen to remain.

The sulfones came too late to save her from the after-effects of her disease, from which she died in 1951. But what a life! And what a practical Christian witness in this historic community where 230 men and women, boys and girls, now live, and over 400 more come for the clinical treatment which here as elsewhere is beginning to replace residence.

The community *is* historic. Rooted even before 1891 in a few derelicts of the bazaar who were treated (to the extent that any victim of leprosy could then be treated) by Dr. Ellen Mitchell, it owed its quick vitality to a woman as intrepid in her own way as Marjorie: Susan Haswell, born in Adnoniram Judson's own house, six years old when he died. Miss Haswell returned to Burma as a missionary seventeen years after. It was her tenacity that brought to the Home in 1898 the help of the Indian government and the Moulmein public, the ownership of the Mission to Lepers. From that time to the present the superintendents and usually the medical officers have been missionaries of the Burma Baptist Mission.

But the present doctor is in the line of descent of Marjorie Wilkins — in the spiritual heredity of undeserved suffering and unassuming Christian service, though his physical heredity is English, Armenian, Indian and Burmese. As a mere boy, Dr. John W. Edwards lost a leg in a railway accident. In mid-medical course he was torn up and thrust into the jungle by the Japanese occupation. He emerged with the symptoms of leprosy, took treatment, fought his way through the rest of a medical course, found the disease still active, gave up and entered the Moulmein Colony. His wife could not "take it" and left him. Within the colony he adopted a little boy to fill the terrible loneliness of his life. Then he became the colony doctor. After some years he was symptom free. Last year he went to the Lucknow Conference convened by the Mission to Lepers and American Leprosy Missions where for the first time in years his heart came wide awake again with hope.

Other staff members: Miss Marion E. Shivers and Rev. Saya U Po Yien.

From the earliest historic times the Shan States have been a no-man's land between Burma, Thailand and China. In the 1930's missionary twin-brothers, Dr. Richard S. Buker and Rev. Raymond B. Buker, did a remarkable piece of pioneering leprosy work in the Shan State of **Kengtung,** planting a central colony in the capital city and ten primitive, self-supporting colonies scattered among the mountains. These were managed by ex-patients trained in the main colony. Most of them survived World War II and the transfer of power to the Union of Burma, but the "Buker Boys" were unable to return. Nevertheless the colonies are being run along the modern lines of "preventive villages" under Dr. Buker's indirect control from Chiengmai, Thailand, with assistance from Rev. M. Vincent Young on the Burma side and with American Leprosy Missions funds.

Mr. Young tells the moving story of Ja Ha. Already toeless and fingerless before the war, he was yet an enthusiastic Christian. When Kengtung

City was bombed and gunned he was terribly frightened but he, a "ruined person," would not let himself leave the colony to endanger people who were not "ruined." After the war the state took over the city colony. Then Ja Ha made his footless way to one of the mountain colonies, where he preaches, teaches, sings, for his fellows and his Christ.

India

Number of Leprosy Colonies	85
Population	361,900,000
Leprosy Cases (estimated)	1,700,000

(*Our leprosy work in India is administered by the Mission to Lepers [London] with American Leprosy Missions providing 60% of the budget for colonies which are American-connected.*)

In the Province of Assam there is a tree called Taroktogenos Kurzii, from whose fruit is obtained the ancient medicine, chaulmoogra oil. This was the earliest remedy used by the many victims of leprosy in the province. Now some 400 patients in Assam receive the latest remedy, the sulfone drugs, from mission colonies run by the ABFMS in **Jorhat** and **Kangpokpi.** The new drugs have brought hopes for a bright future, especially to the patients of Kangpokpi, where the majority are non-contagious neural cases.

At Jorhat the Barbheta colony grew out of Dr. H. W. Kirby's intense personal devotion during forty-six years of service as a medical missionary. Now in retirement, he has been succeeded by his daughter Mary Kirby Berry, M.D. and her husband Earl H. Berry, who are bent on bringing their more than 200 patients, sixty children, and the whole surrounding countryside into the circle of up-to-the-minute leprosy treatment. They have presented to the Mission to Lepers (London) and American Leprosy Missions plans for improvements calling for over $7,000 this year.

Among the proposals are the replacement of all bamboo houses by brick and frame ones at the rate of six each year; the establishment of eight rural survey and treatment centers within a radius of forty miles (each to be visited once a month by station wagon); and a rehabilitation program to settle in one or more self-supporting villages cured patients who have no home or who are ostracised from their homes.

In another highly endemic province, Orissa, 150 patients are cared for in a community near the mission station of **Hatigarh** and about 130 are treated in the out-patient clinic. A few young children, uninfected, are cared for in a nursery until they can enter a regular mission school.

Congo Belge

Number of Leprosy Colonies	105
Population	11,259,000
Leprosy Cases (estimated)	200,000

One of the most promising institutions in this troubled world is now being built in the Belgian Congo. It is the Evangelical Medical Institute. Situated at Kimpese, in the western "panhandle" of the country, it is a joint project of American and English Baptists, Swedish Congregationalists, American Disciples, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Generously backed and financed by the government, it will train the future doctors of the country. It will become a center of research into the terrible and decimating tropical diseases. Among these will be leprosy; and a "research colony" is on the point of being created by Dr. Glen W. Tuttle. Here will soon be brought the patients now living in "Luvuvamu" (the Place of Peace) near the **Sona Bata** Baptist station and its sub-colony at **Banza Manteke.** Even now both are fully supported by the government except for the missionaries' salaries and the garden produce of the patients.

Mboko Joseph is the nurse at Banza Manteke. Fifteen years ago he was the first case. He had already had the visible symptoms for twenty-one years! His mother, brother, sister, wife and daughter are or have been patients, whose recovery under the old chaulmoogra treatment has been impossible or heart-breakingly slow. While Mboko's own hands and feet have year by year grown more mutilated, he has given thousands of oil injections and (recently) sulfone treatments, and has seen a hundred patients discharged. Twice he has hobbled to the rostrum — to receive first his nursing certificate and then a government decoration. What a man he is!

How deeply he is stamped with the die of his father, with whom he went on many pastoral journeys, whose dangers and persecutions he shared. How exacting in medical cleanliness, how appreciative of his new brick house, how tasteful in his care of the dispensary, its trees and its grounds. He has found the Source of power, love, understanding, patience.

Staff at Sona Bata — Dr. Howard N. Freas.

Staff at Banza Manteke — Miss Virginia Nickerson.

(*Continued on page 9*)

Little Known Facts About Leprosy

- There are an estimated ten million people throughout the world who are suffering from leprosy, a small percent of whom are receiving any kind of treatment or care.

- Leprosy is not as contagious as most people believe. It is much less contagious than T. B. or many other diseases, the presence of which people accept so very calmly.

- Leprosy can be cured. There are different kinds of cures. (1) In some cases there is sufficient resistance in the patient to stop the progress of the disease. Such cases may break out again. (2) There are many cases that in time seem to burn themselves out, usually leaving the patient terribly deformed but symptom-free. (3) Now great hope has arisen because of the splendid results secured through the use of the sulphone drugs. Early cases are cured. More advanced cases are rendered symptom-free.

- Children are more susceptible to leprosy than are adults. It is thought that in most cases infection comes in childhood even though the disease does not manifest itself till later.

- Leprosy is being combatted by scientific research and by practical treatment. In the U. S. A. the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) is an example of an institution devoted to research in the field of leprosy. American Leprosy Missions, Inc. is devoted primarily to the care of leprosy victims, although the Technical Medical Advisor and a few missionary doctors associated with ALM have made and are making contributions in the field of research of outstanding significance.

- Leprosy victims find the social stigma more excruciating than the physical pain which the disease may produce. Until the social stigma of leprosy has been eradicated, science will never be able to control or cure the disease of leprosy.

- American Leprosy Missions has expunged the word "leper" from its vocabulary because of its offensive social implications. Some agencies have gone even farther and dropped the word "leprosy" in favor of "Hansen's Disease" (H. D.) in an effort to undercut this social stigma.

- H. D. patients who are cured and who return to community life again must have social acceptance and a normal opportunity for re-employment.

- Surgery is restoring use of hands and removing other deformities which hinder successful rehabilitation.

- Faith in God through Jesus Christ is restoring hope and self-respect in people who were utterly lost in hopelessness and degradation.

FRANCE A
PORTUGAL A B
JORDAN A
EGYPT A
SUDAN (A.E.S.) A
ETHIOPIA B
SIERRA LEONE A
LIBERIA A B C D E F G H I
NIGERIA A B C D E F G H J
BRITISH CAMEROON A
FRENCH CAMEROUN A B C D E F G
UGANDA A
KENYA A B C D E F G H J K L M
BELGE CONGO A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
ANGOLA A B C D E F G H I J K L
NO. RHODESIA A
NYASALAND A
TANGANYIKA A B C D E F
PORT EAST AFRICA A
SOUTH AFRICA A
SWAZILAND A
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PUERTO RICO A
WEST INDIES (BR.) A
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COLOMBIA A B
SURINAM A
BRAZIL A B
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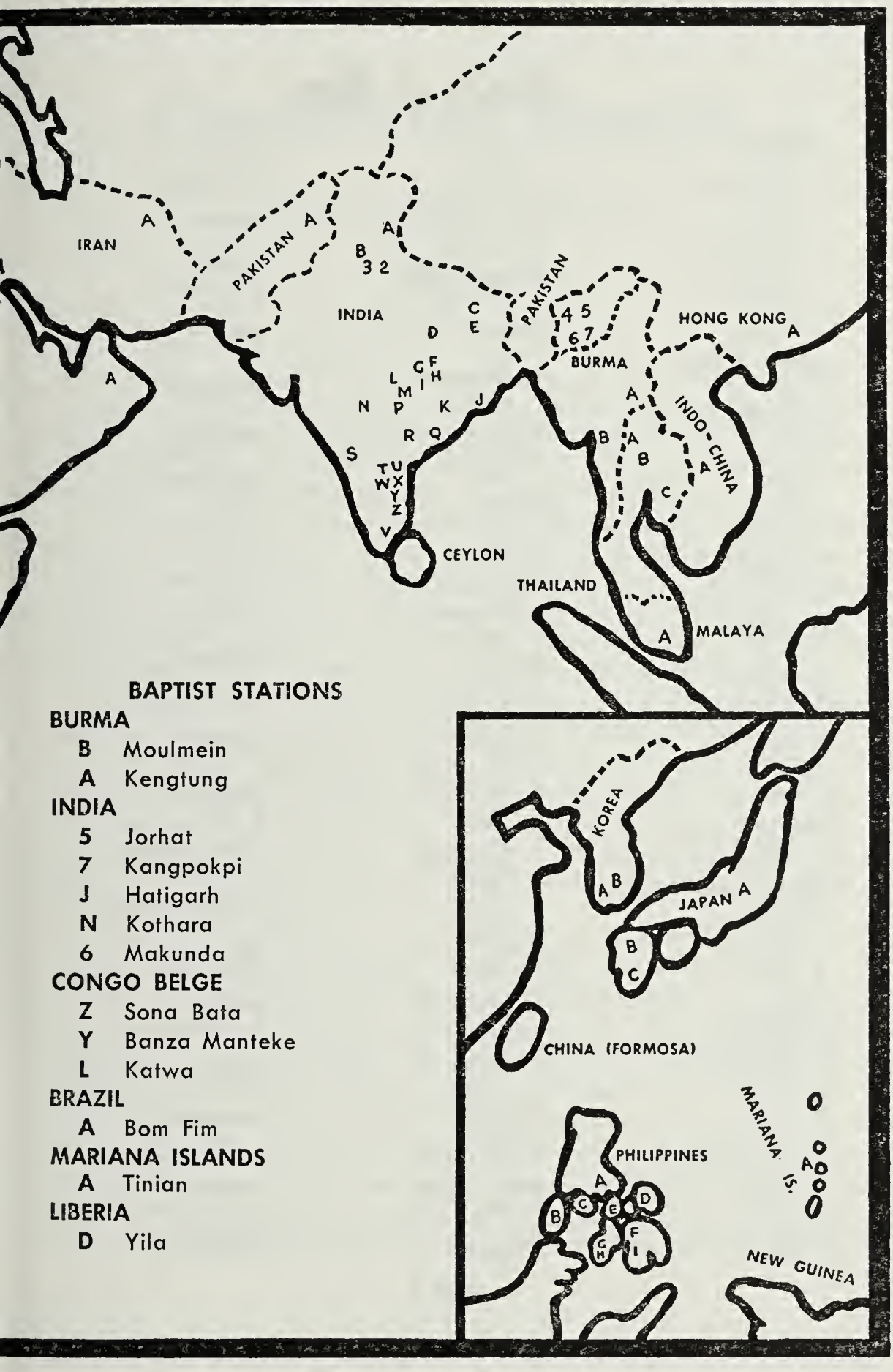
PARAGUAY A



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India

(See page 3 for statistics)

A garden spot of a colony is budding at the old **Kothara** station owned by the Mission to Lepers (London) but staffed and directed by CBFMS missionaries. The enthusiastic superintendent, Tom Major, regales every visitor with ambitious plans for his farms and orchards, which he hopes will provide complete self-support for the 300 resident patients.

The complicated modern machinery, which looks somewhat out of place in the peaceful Indian countryside, is handled with complete competence by the patients. It irrigates the entire farm by pumping water from six huge wells (60 feet deep and from 12 to 20 in diameter) dug and walled by the patients, whose skills were also evidenced in the recent construction of twelve women's cottages and a superintendent's house.

The church at Kothara is one of the most active in all India. In addition to conducting a full-time program in the colony itself, the 130 members, who support five full-time evangelists, carry on Sunday schools in five nearby villages each Sunday. And in one of the villages, Sirasgaen, some of the newly recruited members have bought a small piece of land for a church. Though Kothara patients have an allowance of only six annas (twelve cents) a month, a regular amount of this pitifully small sum it set aside for tithing.

The 160 non-Christian patients also attend the colony church gladly and over 300 out-patients hear the Gospel in the clinics.

The Boys Home of Kothara which cares for 30 uninfected youngsters, reflects the warm personalities of the Indian manager and his wife, who are a second father and mother to the boys. The man himself was an orphan, rescued by the mission, and his own experience has made him doubly sensitive to the needs of homeless boys.

Miss Elizabeth Walton, the nurse, has written of a girl patient named Shanta. Though her name means Peace, she lived at home utterly without peace. At last her brother brought her to Kothara to keep her from jumping down the village well. Even there, she had no peace. Sick with

many diseases and having no future to live for, she wept and whined and wearied the other women of her company. But bit by bit she began to hear the Gospel; later to read it for herself. One Sunday "the timid young girl forgot her fears and shyness . . . was almost pulled to her feet by the urge to tell of her faith in Christ." Going home to invite her mother to her baptism, she brought the Kothara ambulance and its staff of patients to her own court yard, where "Mohammedans and Hindus, the headman of the village and the little children, the well people and the sick listened, questioned and discussed the story of love, forgiveness and peace."

Staff members: Rev. T. H. Major, Dr. J. M. Miner and Miss Elizabeth Walton.

Congo Belge

(See page 4 for statistics)

In **Katwa,** nearly 700 patients live on a hill in their own grass houses. Nearly 150 of their uninfected children are cared for in two homes, and over 200 out-patients come for clinical treatment. In fact many of these, hearing of the new medicines, have come for the first time out of terrified hiding. Some arrests of the disease have occurred, and these recovering patients have started a new village of sun-dried brick huts on an opposite hill. American Leprosy Missions has given a small chapel and a dispensary, and is giving an annual grant of $1,000 maintenance.

Staff Members: Rev. Paul Hurlburt, Dr. Thomas R. Humphrey, Miss Geneva Burkland.

Brazil

Number of Leprosy Colonies	61
Population	53,377,000
Leprosy cases (estimated)	60,000

In one of the small and remote government colonies of about 500 people, Miss Myra Jean Arnold carries on an intimate Gospel ministry to about twenty Protestant patients. The official name of the colony is Sanatorio Colonia Aquiles Lisboa but the work is referred to in missionary circles under the name of BOM FIM. Miss Arnold and two Brazilian helpers visit the colony regularly by motor boat, give Christian teaching and literature, keep up the morale of the small organized church, and help the patients with gardens, milk, other food articles and medicines,

which the government supplies inadequately. A chapel for three-hundred has been built, where members and friends are happy in worship.

Other staff members: Pastor José Barjonas Pereira and Señor Temistocles (nurse).

General Baptist

FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

Mariana Islands

Number of Leprosy Colonies	2
Population	776,541
Leprosy cases (estimated)	Unavailable

Muckain sits in the Baptist chapel in a front seat. He is dressed in his best white shirt and white pants, and his smiling face and warm welcome make you quite forget that at the age of four he has leprosy. He swings his legs in rhythm to the beautiful music that only the Ponapeans can sing. His mother is an outstanding singer who leads this famous choir. A casual visitor would get a big thrill out of Muckain and the other small fry leading the rest in a simple chorus with motions. What a different day from the one when Muckain's mother and father, already patients in the TINIAN colony, got the message that he too was on his way from the tiny atoll of Mokil: first a boat trip of 100 miles to Ponape, then a plane to Truk, from Truk to Guam and finally to Tinian!

Muckain was confused at the start — to put it mildly. But soon his days were passing very happily. Chapel at six, then injections, (which he took bravely), then school, for which with enormous delight he banged a bell made of an old shell-case. In the afternoons gardens, pets (pigs, goats and dogs) and games (pingpong, volley-ball and many others).

When World War II left the U.S. Navy with these 120 islands on its hands, the Navy began trying to assemble the unknown number of leprosy victims on Saipan and Tinian. In the course of the nine intervening years, the islands were bandied back and forth between the Navy and the Department of the Interior, but always Tinian had the good fortune to draw a Christian medical officer and each one welcomed the ministry of a Protestant pastor. The General Baptists were on hand, drew the Protestants into a vital church, and included the whole population of 176 in a vigorous community program. Now, there are only 50 patients left — so effective have been the sulfone drugs.

From 1950, American Leprosy Missions, Inc. responded to the request for half the salary of the pastor, who at present is Rev. Clifton Ford.

Mid-Missions

India

(See page 3 for statistics)

Prassana was a fearful sight when he came to **Makunda.** His body was full of sores, his hair and beard uncut and unkempt. He was forty years old, and for twenty-four years leprosy had been making havoc of him. First he had prayed to die; later he had become a priest hoping the gods would for that reason heal him. One day when missionaries arrived at his village, he fell on his face before them asking their help. At Makunda he "passed from death unto life." Treatment has improved his body and his soul has found peace in the Christian Gospel.

This is the sort of thing the Makunda colony near Hatikhira, Province of Assam, is doing for about 150 patients. Started in 1937 at Silchar near Alipur mission station by veteran Dr. G. G. Crozier, the colony was moved in 1950 to its present site (with government help and warm hospitality) on 1000 acres of land well-suited to rice fields and gardens. Buildings are being added year by year, roads made, a tractor bought, cattle and fish stocked.

Unlike all other American-connected colonies in India, Makunda receives aid only from American Leprosy Missions, not from London.

Staff members: Rev. James S. Garlow, Superintendent (on furlough, 1954) Mr. Fred Waldock, Dr. Quentin Kenoyer, Dr. K. Singh and Miss Doris Bruce.

Liberia

Number of Leprosy Colonies	5
Population	1,648,000
Leprosy Cases (estimated)	2,300

To a small colony of 76 patients at **Yila** American Leprosy Missions gives the sulfone drugs when requested.

Staff member: Miss Carolyn Hovingh and Miss Lila Van Barriger.

Thus With Financial Aid and Technical Counseling

AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS, INC. helps the missionaries of the American Churches to care for the victims of leprosy. In this way American Leprosy Missions, Inc. operates as an AUXILIARY OF ALL BOARDS enabling medical missionaries and others the world over to care for and often cure people with leprosy.

The hope of *healing* is now greater than ever before. With healing comes the necessity of rehabilitation, (1) physically, through orthopedic surgery and physiotherapy, (2) vocationally, through training to become self supporting, and (3) spiritually, through faith in Jesus Christ and through fellowship with Christians.

From where will AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS get the money which has been promised to the missionaries for their leprosy work?

Only from the voluntary contributions of people who want to help with this work.

Does AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS receive bequests and annuities?

Yes, write for our leaflets on this subject.

Where may gifts for leprosy work be sent?

To any accredited volunteer representative or to any address on the next page.

"Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And He put forth his hand and touched him saying, I will: be thou clean." *Luke 5:12, 13.*

AMERICAN BAPTISTS

We gratefully acknowledge the financial aid of American Leprosy Missions, Inc. to the stations described in this leaflet. Without this aid the leprosy work on mission fields which comes under the supervision of the ABFMS missionaries could not be done. In its ability effectively to present its unique ministry and to elicit and channel funds for this ministry ALM merits the thanks and support of all who would follow our Lord's example in compassionate concern for those who are afflicted with the age-old disease of leprosy.

JESSE R. WILSON, Home Secretary

CONSERVATIVE BAPTISTS

The Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society accepts this challenge of ministering to leprosy patients as a ministry commanded by our Lord: "Cleanse the lepers." We appreciate the financial grants that have been given by American Leprosy Missions and are grateful to use these funds for the physical and spiritual welfare of those under our responsibility.

The CBFMS in no way wishes this endorsement to imply that we are in agreement with the theological inclusivism principles of any missionary society with which ALM may be cooperating.

VINCENT BRUSHWYLER, General Director

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